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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 21 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 May 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 20 May 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 13 May 1997 addressed to you, I have the honour to bring to your attention new evidence regarding the utilization and apparent expropriation of Turkish Cypriot-owned properties in the south by the Greek Cypriot authorities.

At a press conference he held on 16 May 1997, the Greek Cypriot Interior Minister, Mr. Dinos Michaelides, disclosed that "over 4,000 Greek Cypriot refugees would be given ownership titles" for plots on which they have built homes (The Cyprus Mail, 17 May 1997). Although the plots in question are claimed to be on "state-owned land", the Greek Cypriot official admitted that "there were several problems with these homes ... Problems included the use of Turkish Cypriot homes ...".

The above information speaks for itself and confirms the utilization and even expropriation of Turkish Cypriot properties in the south by the Greek Cypriot administration. It also shows the hypocrisy behind the Greek Cypriot side's complaints that the Turkish Cypriot side is utilizing abandoned property in the north.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus